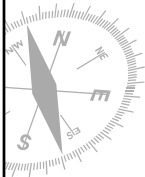


Guidelines for Submitting Rabies Specimens

Randy Groepper B.S., SM(ASCP)
Lead Rabies Technologist

University Hygienic Lab



Hours of Operation

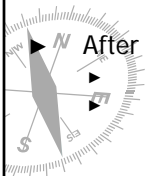
- Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Saturday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Sundays and Holidays on call coverage



Contacting UHL

- Phone 319-335-4500

During regular business hours:
Ask for the Rabies Lab

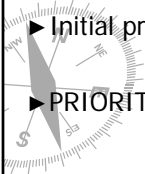


After Hours:

- Voice mail answered next working day
- Option to contact on call officer

Turnaround Time

- ▶ Sample must arrive by noon on regular business days to ensure same day completion of rabies testing.
- ▶ Initial preparation done throughout the day
- ▶ PRIORITY given to Human exposure cases



Rabies Test Request Forms

- ▶ Available at the UHL website
<http://www.uhl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms/index.htm>
- ▶ Order by phone
ask for kits/forms supply desk



Reports

- ▶ Negative results will be mailed, unless a phone report is requested
- ▶ All other results will be phoned and mailed including positive, indeterminate and unsatisfactory specimen reports



Rabies Samples

- ▶ No live animals, except bats delivered to lab by client
- ▶ Intact head only for animals.
- ▶ Submit the entire carcass of bats.
- ▶ Keep sample refrigerated, do not freeze.
- ▶ Sample should arrive in lab within 48 hours of shipment date

Packaging sample for shipment

- A. Seal head in plastic bag
- B. Place bagged head in a rigid, sealable container.
- C. Place ice packs around head
- D. Seal the container
- E. Place Test Request Form in a separate plastic bag.
- F. Place container and Test Request Form in a heavy cardboard mailing box.

Shipping sample

- ▶ Do not ship by U.S. mail
- ▶ Most samples delivered to lab by owner or by person bitten
- ▶ Call Lab for instructions especially if sample will arrive after hours or on a weekend or holiday

Required Brain Parts

► Brain Stem

► Cerebellum and/or hippocampus



Typical Animal Brain

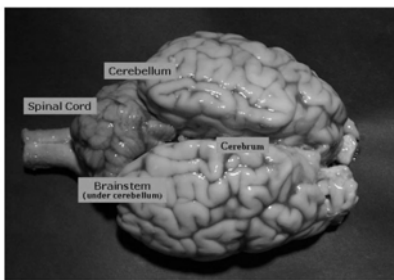
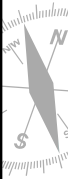


Figure 2. Dorsal view of brain.



Instructions for after hours or weekend/holiday shipments

► Call lab for instructions:

► To get directions for after hours sample depository

► To ensure that necessary personnel are notified



Rabies Test

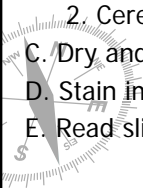
- Based on CDC protocol developed in conjunction with several state public health laboratories.

- Initiated at Hygienic Lab in 2002

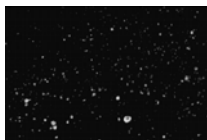


Rabies Test Procedure

- A. Brain removed from skull
- B. Impression slides
 1. Brain Stem
 2. Cerebellum or Hippocampus
- C. Dry and fix slides (90 min.)
- D. Stain impressions (1 hour start to read)
- E. Read slides



Rabies Positive DFA Slide



Rabies Negative DFA Slide

